

SB135- Allowing children to consent to vaccination- OPPOSE

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Kristyn Gerchalk. I am a mother of 6 residing in Pikesville, MD. I am writing in opposition of this bill. Medical decisions should never be made by children without their parent's consent and oversight. No one is going to know more than the parents about the unique medical histories that each of their children has.

If our goal is to protect children, then we need to appeal to the parents, not bypass their right to make decisions regarding their children's healthcare. Whittling away at parental rights only harms children. The people who will come into contact with the children may have little or no knowledge about them, and will be subject to their own personal biases which will affect the way they care for the children they are serving. Not to mention that not everyone is operating with the most up-to-date information, which can mean a death sentence for some children if a vaccine is contraindicated for them.

And if indeed you DO want to protect children, and agree to appeal to the parents, I implore you to listen to and address their concerns. Oftentimes the bias of those wanting to increase compliance leads to animosity and name calling, which serves no one. You will not accomplish anything by force. Only through transparency, compromise, and cooperation will bring you the results you seek.

Thank you
indigomoon18@gmail.com